मध्य प्रदेश में सोयाबीन की फसल को पहुंची क्षति

329. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश विशेषकर भोपाल संभाग में सोयाबीन की फसल को भारी क्षति पहुंची है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या कृषि मंत्रालय ने फसल को क्षति से बचाने के लिए समय पर कोई कदम उठाया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० एस० वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) जैसा कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि यह सच नहीं है कि सोयाबीन की फसल को भारी क्षति पहुंची है। तथापि भोपाल क्षेत्र के मामले में सोयाबीन की फसल वाले कुल 9.28 लाख है० क्षेत्र में से लगभग 2.44 लाख हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र प्रभावित हुआ था। फसल को 20 से 30 प्रतिशत तक क्षति पहुंची।

(ख) सोयाबीन की फसल को हुई क्षति जैसा कि ऊपर (क) में बताया गया है, ओलावृष्टि तथा अक्तूबर 97 माह में हुई गैर-मौसम की वर्षा के साथ-साथ किट्ट रोग के कारण पहुंची।

(ग) कृषि मंत्रालय ने मध्य प्रदेश सहित सोयाबीन उगाने वाले सभी राज्यों में सोयाबीन की फसल में किट्ट रोग के नियंत्रण के लिए पौध संरक्षण रसायनों के उपयोग के लिए सहायता देने की अनुमति दे दी है।

Damage to Cotton Crop

330. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to spurious pesticides or otherwise, cotton crop is still being-damaged inspite of pesticides spray; and

(b) if the sprays of pesticides have become ineffective, whether Government would consider the proposal to appoint and Expert Committee to find out the volution of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Cotton crop is prone to damage by insect-pests, diseases and weather factors. Major cotton growing States have reported damage to cotton crop due to heliothis, white fly insect-pests and leaf curl virus disease. The cotton crop is treated by spraying pesticides like Cypermethrin, Fenvalerate, Monocrotophos, Endosulphan, Phosphamidon, Quinalphos, Acephate etc. No specific instance of damage to cotton crop by use of spurious pesticides has been reported by any State Government. However, pesticides used for cotton in Punjab and Rajasthan during the current kharif season were reportedly washed away partly due to intermittent rains as a result of which the cotton crop has been affected.

Closing down of Fertilizer Units

331. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government owned urea production units at Talcher and Ramagundam are proposed to be closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss of production of urea that would occur as a result of their closure;

(d) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer units at Namrup, Sindhri, Durgapur and Barauni are also running in loss; and

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal to revive them and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has approved the revival package of Namrup Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) on 1.10.1997. The modalities of its implementation are being worked out.

The decision in respect of the revival of Barauni and Durgapur Units of HFC and Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher Units of FCI is yet to be taken. The eventual decision on the scope of the revamp of the functional units of HFC and FCI, which should be subject to the approval of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), would inter-alia take into account the considerations of unit-wise viability and tie-up of the funding arrangements.

Expansion of the Paradeep Phosphate Limited

332. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the plant of Paradeep Phosphate Limited at Paradeep, if so, when it will start; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for diversification in the Paradeep Phosphate Limited plant by inducting urea unit to make it more balanced and profitable, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, proposal has been submitted to the Government by Paradeep Phosphate Limited (PPL) for expansion/diversification of its plants at Paradeep.

(b) PPL has considered some options for setting up ammonia-urea plants. No final view has, however, been taken by the Board of Directors of PPL in this regard.

Status of Durgapur Fertilizer Unit

333. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the decison to shut down the Durgapur unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) the annual loss of production because of the forced closure of the unit and the cost of additional import of fertilizers to make up for the resulting loss of fertilizer supply; and

(c) the estimated additional outlay of foreign exchange on account of the official decision?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The production operations at Durgapur unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) have temporarily been suspended by the mangement of the company on account of frequent equipment problems, the resolution of which would necessitate a substantial capital investment.

(b) and (c) A production target of 50,000 MT of urea was fixed for 1997-98 for the Durgapur Unit. Before the production operations were suspended, the Durgapur Unit had produced 3225 MT of urea.

The weighted average C&F price of imported urea during the period April-October 1997 has been US$ 162.59 per MT. If the production shortfall of Durgapur unit is made up by imports at this price, the additional foreign exchange outgo will be US$ 7.61 million. There will, however, be a substantial overall saving as the cost of production at HFC Durgapur is much higher than the retention price of Rs. 10,478 per MT on account of low capacity utilisation.

Delay in the Mega Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project

334. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mega Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project is getting delayed due to the Ministers directive for fresh evaluation of bids; and

(b) if so, the facts of the case and any how much time the project is likely to be delayed as a result of reassessment of the bids?